

17 DEC 1998



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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Patent Cooperation Treaty
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Address: Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Box PCT
Washington, D.C. 20231

Charles G. Carter
Merchant, Gould, Smith, Edell, Welter & Schmidt
3100 Norwest Center
Minneapolis, MN 55402

Dear Mr. Carter,

This is in response to your letter received 21 September 1998 inquiring about the status of U.S. national stage patent application number 09/011,940 filed 22 August 1996. The application is currently being processed by the United States Designated/Elected Office (US/DO/EO). Applicant will receive a communication shortly concerning the results of this processing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Sally Gardner-Lane".

Sally Gardner-Lane:sgl
PCT Legal Detailee
PCT Legal Office

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jennifer D. Bahr".

Jennifer D. Bahr
PCT Legal Examiner
PCT Legal Office

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